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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/681,781	10/08/2003	Sergey A. Kostylev	2024.42	6696
7590		11/05/2004		
Philip H. Schlazer Energy Conversion Devices, Inc. 2956 Waterview Drive Rochester Hills, MI 48309			EXAMINER JACKSON JR, JEROME	
			ART UNIT 2815	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/681,781

Applicant(s)

KOSTYLEV ET AL.

Examiner

Jerome Jackson Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 7 (and perhaps the figures) there is confusion between 110 and 120 as to which is the substrate and which is the conductor. On page 14 line 20 "120" should be --130--.

Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1,4-6,9,10,11,12,14-17,19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wolstenholme '059 (W).

W teaches in figure 5 a programmable resistance material 55, threshold switching material comprising silicon layers 10, 20, and 24, and a first layer of dielectric 45 between the programmable material and threshold switching material. Note that the p-n junction diode material can be labeled a threshold switching material as it switches or conducts a large current upon reaching a threshold voltage bias as is well known in the art. Accordingly claim 1 is rejected. Claim 4 is rejected as 80 comprises a second layer of dielectric material and the programmable resistance material is between the first and second dielectric materials. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected as layer 55 is a chalcogenide phase change material. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected as the dielectric 45

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is silicon nitride. Claims 11,12,14-17,19 and 20 are rejected as above noting that "over" or "under" is relative and the chalcogenide material inherently possesses S-type current-voltage properties.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7,13,18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolstenholme in view of Parkinson '338.

Parkinson suggests access devices of phase change material such as chalcogenides. It would have been prima facie obvious to have practiced a device as W with access devices of phase change materials rather than silicon diode materials to decrease the memory cell size (column 1 of '338). Claims 7, 13 and 18 are obvious structure.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over W in view of Kozicki 914.

Kozicki teaches a high resistance barrier or "stabilizing" layer 155 or 255 of silicon dioxide between an electrode and phase change material (column 7 lines 12-18). It would have been obvious to have practiced a similar layer in W to increase the write voltage (column 8) or limit diffusion of unwanted materials. The thickness of the barrier layer is considered obvious at 1-100nm from column 16 line 10. Claim 8 is obvious structure.

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Claims 1-9,11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kostylev '730

The applied reference has a common assignee and inventor with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Kostylev teaches layers of chalcogenide (i.e. programmable resistance material and threshold switching material) between layers of dielectric (oxides, nitrides, etc. of "stabilizing" material). See paragraph 45 and figure 7. Claims 1-9 are broad and undistinguishing over '730.

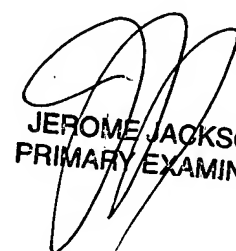
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerome Jackson Jr. whose telephone number is 571 272 1730. The examiner can normally be reached on t-th 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Thomas can be reached on 571 272 1664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jj


JEROME JACKSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER